

Board of Health Report – December 11th, 2019

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager

Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Continuing to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify potential initiatives, contact presenters, and invite new agencies to participate.
 - *Recent and Upcoming Meetings: November 25th from 5:30-6:30pm. No December meeting. January 27th from 5:30-6:30pm (location TBD).*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members have released the fourth "Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA" report, which focuses on the specific risk factors of overdose during colder weather.
- Continuing to co-lead Media Subcommittee meeting of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Lowell General Hospital was provided with condensed notes for providers re: Narcan and the Good Samaritan Law, which was included in their monthly provider email. The Subcommittee also finalized a social media image and press release highlighting the importance of having Narcan and being trained to use Narcan.
- Continuing to working to identify a specific documentation system to demonstrate how the Substance Abuse Coordinator (SAC) position and the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division have impacted the Lowell Health Department and provider community. This information is important to incorporate into grant reporting as the SAC position has positively expanded beyond the expectations written into the grant.

Lowell CO-OP and Related Efforts:

- Lainnie continues to be involved in administrative planning for the Lowell CO-OP, including co-facilitating Lowell CO-OP Supervisors Meetings and working with team and grant partners to ensure effectiveness of the team.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Managing daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.
- Lainnie is the point person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org. Marketing materials have been designed and are being distributed to partners in Greater Lowell, which include an email signature, social medial images, 11x18 foam boards, business cards, and pens.
- Lainnie presented to a first year Middlesex Community College class about the interaction of substance abuse and resilience on November 25th.
- Lainnie has been asked by colleagues from Tufts University and Trinity EMS to work on a scientific research paper examining how EMS interacts with patients prior to experiencing a fatal overdose.
- The Substance Abuse and Prevention Division is working with Mass Hire/Lowell Career Center via the Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant to bring aboard an outreach worker to enhance the outreach efforts of the Division. More details to follow.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)
Lainnie Emond, Substance Abuse Coordinator

*** Lainnie Emond will oversee the MOAPC Grant through the end of the grant cycle, June 30th, 2019. ***

Strategy One (implement Life Skills Training across the cluster): *Life Skills Training is an evidenced based prevention curriculum supported by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.*

- No updates at this time.

Grant Strategy Two (coordination and promotion of education on harm reduction strategies):

- Several organizations within the MOAPC cluster towns offer Narcan training and Narcan kits.
- Discussed the desire to identify if there are trends in overdoses across town borders (ie. if there is an overdose spike in one town, will there be a similar spike in another town on the same day or possibly the days following?). Lainnie created an Excel document that tracks fatal and nonfatal overdoses per day for the years 2016-2019. Point people in the Greater Lowell MOAPC Cluster towns have been provided with this document and were offered the opportunity to add their tracking numbers for fatal and nonfatal overdoses.

Additional activities include:

- www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org is live. The MOAPC grant funded informational business cards and other outreach materials to promote the website.
- Maria Ruggiero (SAPC Coordinator from the Tewksbury Police Department) and Lainnie facilitated monthly MOAPC/SAPC coalition meeting on November 19th in Wilmington.
- Lainnie and cluster are continuing to work on updating an out-of-date flier specific to unwanted medication disposal box locations to provide communities with the most up-to-date information for Greater Lowell.

Drug Free Greater Lowell Website

- Analytics will be available for the next Board of Health report.
- The MOAPC grant funded Drug Free Greater Lowell marketing and outreach materials for the second annual Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium on being held on December 6th at the Westford Regency as a means to spread the word about the revamped website.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)

*** Lainnie Emond will act as interim coordinator of the PFS grant until the position is filled. ***

Strategy One (social media and education dissemination to high school-aged youth re: sharing prescription medications):

PFS Social Media Campaign:

- Social media campaign has been placed on hold until a new PFS Coordinator is hired.

UMASS Lowell (UML) Collaboration:

- Lainnie Emond is attending the UML Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Task Force while acting as interim PFS Coordinator.

Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):

“Help Keep Our Kids Safe” Campaign

-Community Health Educator, Kate Elkins, is continuing efforts to create a two-sided handout giving tips on the proper storage of prescription medication as well as identifying medication disposal sites in Lowell. This handout will be distributed to the general public with a specific focus on parents/caregivers of local youth.

Monthly Meeting:

Monthly coalition meetings have been postponed until January 2020.

Outreach Health Educator Position:

Position was posted from October 25th through November 8th. First round interviews occurred the week of November 18th. Second round interviews are expected to occur the first week of December.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP)
Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor

Lowell CO-OP Data 2019

--	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total Encounters	78	76	32	47	88	58	41	48	74	33	--	--	575
Unique Encounters	--	37	28	29	52	34	28	36	53	16	--	--	313
Initial Interaction	--	9	6	9	17	3	7	13	12	2	--	--	78
OD Follow-Up	2	8	9	11	17	3	6	9	29	4	--	--	98
Section 35	2	1	0	1	5	1	1	2	2	0	--	--	15
Clinical Clients	7	7	5	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	--	--	36
Disseminate Narcan	0	0	3	6	13	4	20	5	25	5	--	--	81
SUD Treatment	11	15	14	12	14	14	18	14	22	11	--	--	145
Medical Treatment	0	1	0	5	3	4	4	5	4	1	--	--	27
Other Services	7	1	2	8	4	8	3	2	11	1	--	--	47
Misc. Outreach	--	--	--	--	--	156	223	464	71	72	--	--	986

Outreach and Educational Events

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
11-4-2019	Educational Presentation	Salvation Army, Bridging the Gaps Program	CO-OP Services, SUD Education	8
11-6-2019	Educational Presentation	Pyne Arts School: Generation Citizen	CO-OP Services, SUD Education	25
11-8-2019	Presentation	DA Ryan's Task Force	CO-OP Services	30
12-6-2019	Presentation	Merrimack Valley Symposium	CO-OP Services	Pending

Relationship Building

Date	Organization	Relationship Building
11-4-2019	CTI	CO-OP Supervisor and Team members met with Youth Program Director to tour new youth drop-in center.

Additional

- The Clinical Recovery Specialist position was reposted on 11/21 and will remain open until 12/16.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator (SCPC)

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- Lowell Community Health Center
- Middlesex Sheriff's Dept.
- Lowell Catholic
- Life Connections Center
- Heath Innovations
- Lowell City Council
- Office of the City Manager
- Lowell CO-OP
- Department of Planning & Development
- Lowell Street Department
- Lowell Police Department
- Lowell Parks Department
- Lowell Housing Authority
- Canal Water Cleaners

Community Events Attended:

- 10/24 Greater Lowell HIV Networking Breakfast
- 11/4 Syringe Service Program Meeting
- 11/5 Harm Reduction & Prevention Training: LCHC
- 11/6 Hunger Homeless Commission Meeting (*Program Presentation + Education*)

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- Bishop Markim Vil.
- McPherson Park
- Thorndike Overpass
- Fort Hill Park
- Western Ave. Bridge
- Kittredge Park
- Lowell Justice Center
- Rogers Street Bridge
- Riverfront Park
- Rourke Bridge
- YMCA Drive
- Rogers Stem Acad.
- Lowell Locks
- Aiken Street Bridge
- Point Park
- Bridge Street Bridge
- Hunts Falls Bridge
- N. Common Park
- S. Common Park
- La Lachuer Park
- Jack Kerouac Park

Syringe Collection Activity 2019

Total Number Of...	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	11/1 - 11/22	Dec	Total
Discarded syringe pick-up requests	8	6	8	21	22	35	38	20	---	148
Incoming calls for syringe pick-up requests	6	21	20	17	14	14	14	11	---	113
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded syringe pick-up requests	49	240	334	256	157	337	322	109	---	1,691
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes in the community	9	20	25	29	41	49	35	36.5	---	235.5
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	493	967	488	1231	895	1040	845	793	---	6,572
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	11	75	49	16	131	161	0	---	433